TRIBAL ART SOCIETY

Friday
April 1st
2022

ONLINE CATALOGUE LXXVI

APRIL ISSUE

WHO WE ARE

The Tribal Art Society features an online catalogue every month listing quality works of Asian art that have been thoroughly vetted by our select members, who are the in-house experts.

By bringing together a group of trusted dealers specializing in Tribal art, our platform offers a unique collection of works of art that collectors will not find anywhere else online. To ensure the highest standards, gallery membership is by invitation only and determined by a selection committee.

/TribalArtSociety

Cover Image: Luba *Kashekesheke*. Presented by James Stephenson on p. 64

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UP TO 2.000 104

APRIL ARTWORKS

Pieces are published and changed each month. The objects are presented with a full description and corresponding dealer's contact information. Unlike auction sites or other platforms, we empower collectors to interact directly with the member dealers for enquiries and purchases by clicking on the e-mail adress.

In order to guarantee the quality of pieces available in the catalogues, objects are systematically validated by all our select mebers, who are the in-house experts. Collectors are therefore encouraged to decide and buy with complete confidence. In addition to this, the Tribal Art Society proposes a seven-day full money back return policy should the buyer not feel totally satisfied with a purchase.

Feel free to ask the price if the artwork is listed with a price on request.

01

TORAJA HEIRLOOM CONTAINER

Heirloom container
Toraja
Indonesia
19th century
Wood, bamboo, rattan
40 cm x 38 cm
Price: 6.000 euros

The two separate parts (lid and container) depict masculine and feminine motives (buffalo and circles).

The buffalo, symbole of strength and resistance and the waves or clouds, symbole of mothernity, are also present in the first millenium BC art from Vietnam (Dongson and Dian cultures).

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Pascassio Manfredi
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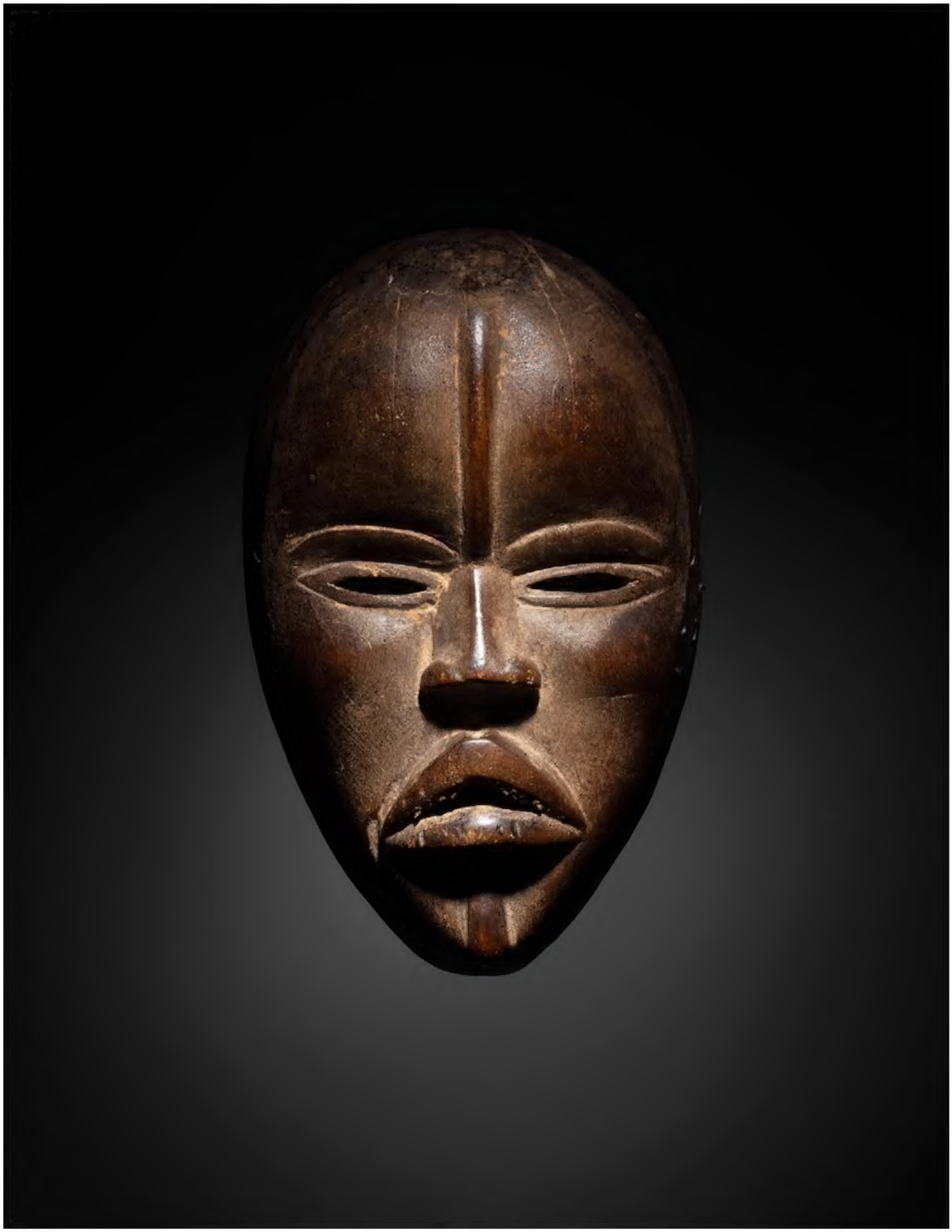

02

DAN MASK

Mask
Dan
Ivory Coast
Wood and old patina of use
Height: 24 cm
Provenance:
Private European collection
Price: 5.900 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Eric Hertault
T.:+33 6 15 38 64 81
E.: hertault.eric@gmail.com
W.: www.eric-hertault.com

03

PUTAIANA

Putaiana - Pair of ear ornaments
Marquesas Islands
19th or early 20th century
Marine ivory
Length: 4,7 cm and 5,1 cm
Provenance:
Abraham Rosman & Paula Rubel, New York

TAS Exclusive Price: 8.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Julien Flak
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E.: contact@galerieflak.com
W.: www.galerieflak.com

As stated by Edmond de Ginoux (an ethnologist in French Polynesia in the 1840s), "no one in the Marquesas Islands [...] would appear in public without wearing ear ornaments".

Putaiana were female ear ornaments. They were passed on from generation to generation. They usually featured one or more tiki figures often associated with mythological tales.

These finely carved adornments were worn during ceremonies and festive gatherings. According to Claude Stéfani, in "L'art ancestral des Iles Marquises", the ephemeral arrangement of ornaments was as important as their intrinsic beauty.

These Marquesas islands ornaments will be part of our selection of ancient arts of Oceania on the occasion of PAD Paris, 6-10 April in the Tuileries Gardens.

04

SONGYE FETISH

Fetish sculpture
Songye
D.R. of Congo
Late 19th century
Wood, cowries and metal
Height: 20,5 cm
Provenance:
J. Christiaens, Belgium
G.Gili- R.Amorós, Spain
Price: 16.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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05

KANAK COMB

Comb
Kanak
New Caledonia, Melanesia
19th century
Bamboo
19 cm x 19 cm x 0,3 cm
Provenance:
Collected by Magistrate Henri Louit (1846-1905) between 1890 and 1894 at Bourail in New Caledonia. Subsequently the family home of Puntis in the Gers, South West France.
By descent to Alice Guermont, then to Jean-Louis Despiau then to his daughter Hugette Fabre (née Despiau).
André & Hugette Fabre, Toulouse.
Price: 4.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Anthony J.P. Meyer
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W.: www.meyeroceanic.art

An extremely fine, and very large bamboo comb worn both by men and women. Carved in one piece from a section of semi-flattened bamboo, it has the upper band delicately engraved with linear designs. The extremities are decorated with lateral panels of large incised reversed triangles with hash-mark filling. The comb has 26 long, thin teeth in perfect condition.

06

DAN GUERE MASK

Miniature mask
Dan/Guere
Ivory Coast
Wood
Height: 13 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, France
Marceau Rivière, France
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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W.: www.olivierlarroque.com

07

BUKA PADDLE

Canoe Paddle
Buka Island, Solomon Islands
Early 20th century
Wood with natural pigments
132 cm (l) x 10,2 cm (w) x 2,54 cm (d)
Price: 3.200 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Joe Loux
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W.: www.joeloux.com

08

MERINA LAMP

Ritual oil lamp
Merina
Madagascar
Wrought iron
Height: 91 cm
Price: 3.200 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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09

NEPAL MASK

Mask
West Nepal
Wood, soot patina
Height: 25 cm
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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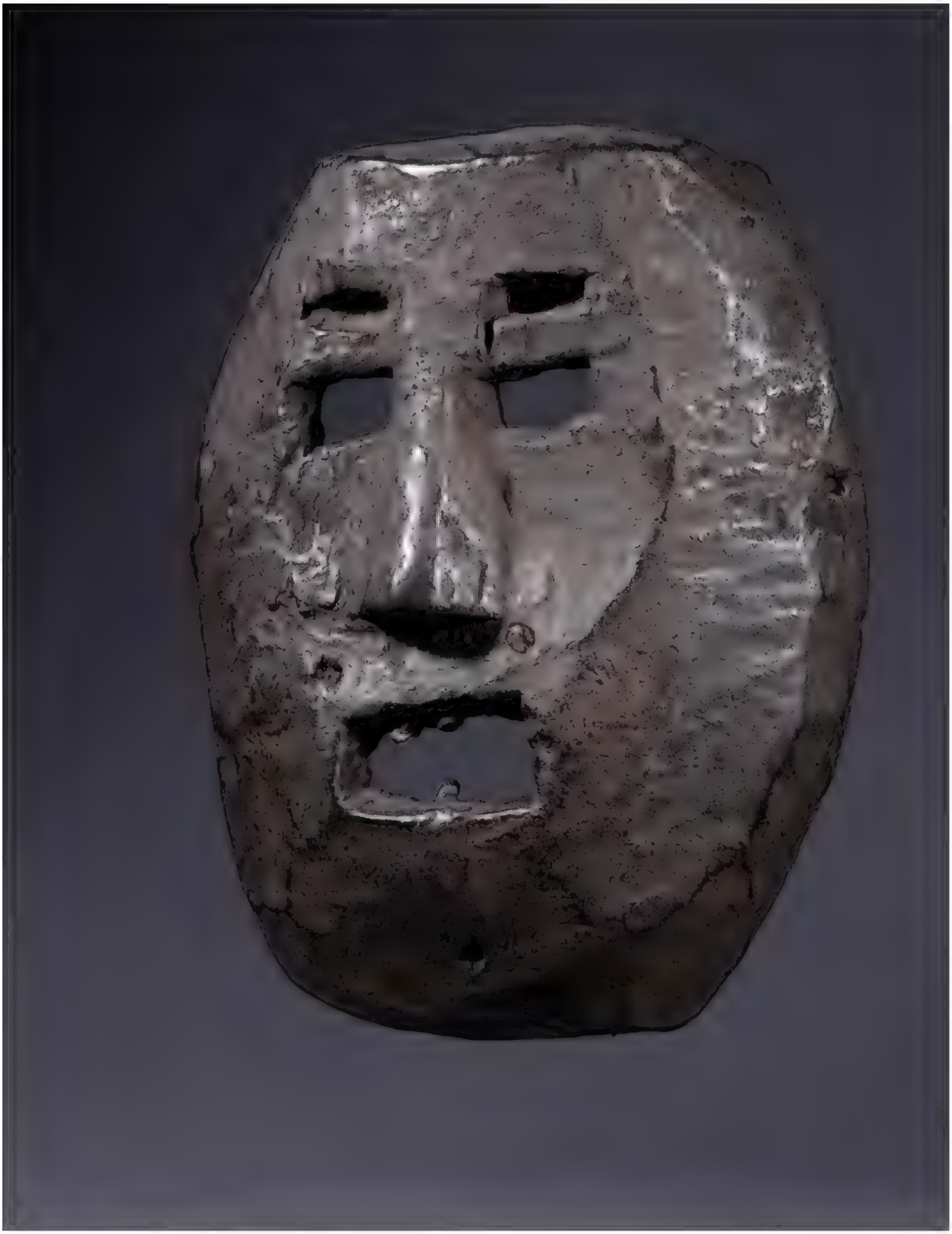
W.: www.indianheritage.biz



10

ITURI MASK

A very old minimal mask
Ituri
D.R of Congo
Circa 1900 or older
30 cm x 16 cm
Provenance:
U.K. collection.
Price:

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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11

JADE ADZE BLADE

Blade
Kanak
New Caledonia, Melanesia
19th century or earlier
Intense green nephrite or serpentine.
16 cm x 7,5 cm x 2,7 cm
Weight: 520 g
Exhibition and publication:
Namur, Vert Désir 2020/2021
Price: 4.350 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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12

AKUABA DOLL

Akuaba fertility doll
Ashanti
Ghana
Early 20th century
Carved wood
Height: 30 cm
Provenance:
Gregory Ghent, USA
Jo de Buck, Brussels
Price: 2.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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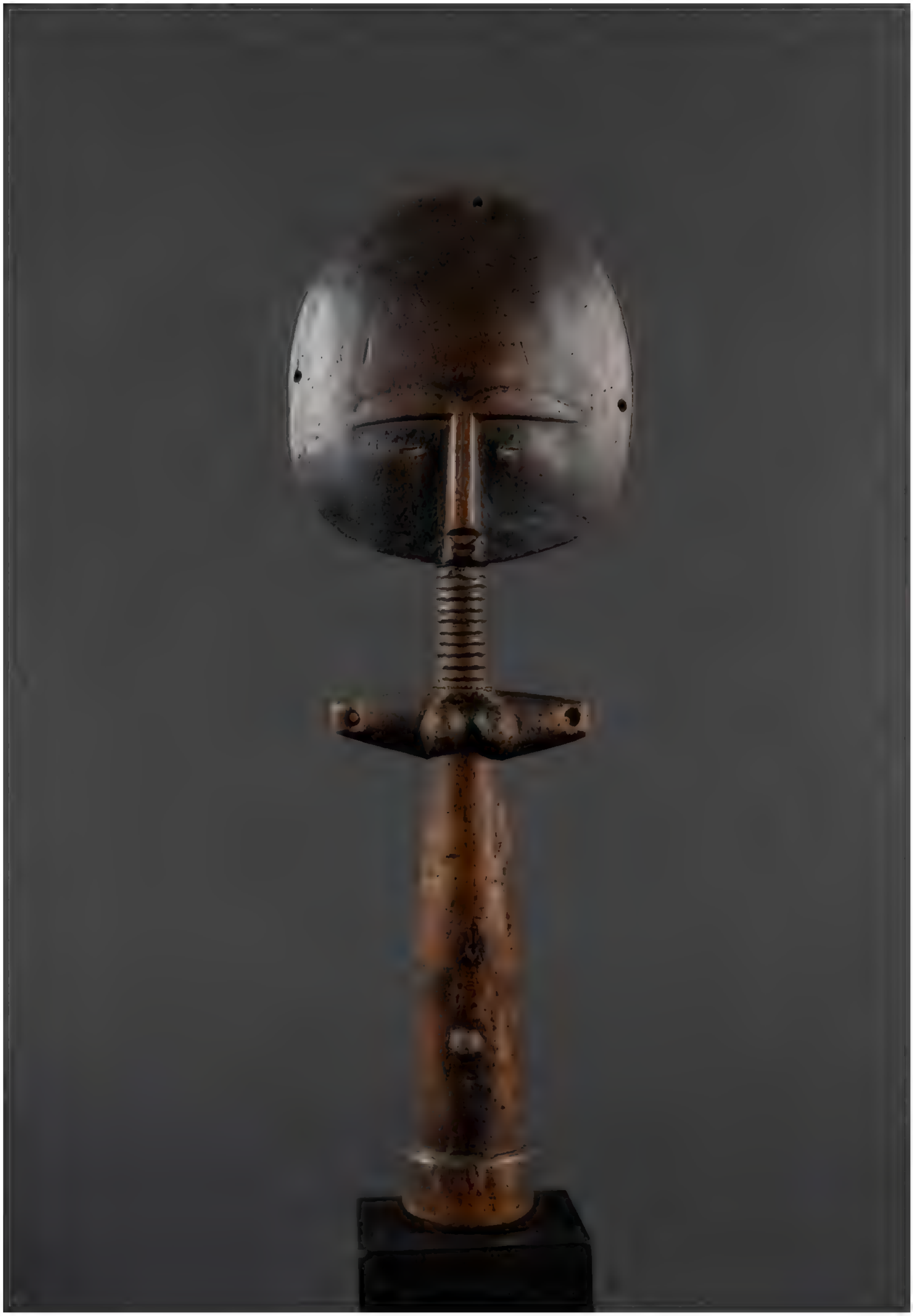
This type of Ashanti figure is called *akuaba*. It represents youth and fertility. Such carved figures were said to facilitate the conception of a child and ensure safe delivery at birth. Ashanti (Akan) women carried the dolls with them at all times. They treated them as if they were living babies, cuddling them, dressing them up, etc.

In terms of symbolism, the flat, disk-like head represents an ideal of beauty. The ringed neck, depicting rolls of fat, are symbols of beauty and prosperity. The small scars seen on the face of the akua'ba were made for medicinal purposes as protection against convulsions.

This doll will be part of our selection of ancient arts of Africa on the occasion of PAD Paris, 6-10 April in the Tuileries Gardens.



13

TAU-TAU

Statue
Toraja
Sulawesi, Indonesia
19th century
Height: 75 cm
Price on request

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14

SENUFO MASK

Mask
Senufo
Ivory Coast
Wood and patina of use
Height: 36 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Paris
Price: 6.900 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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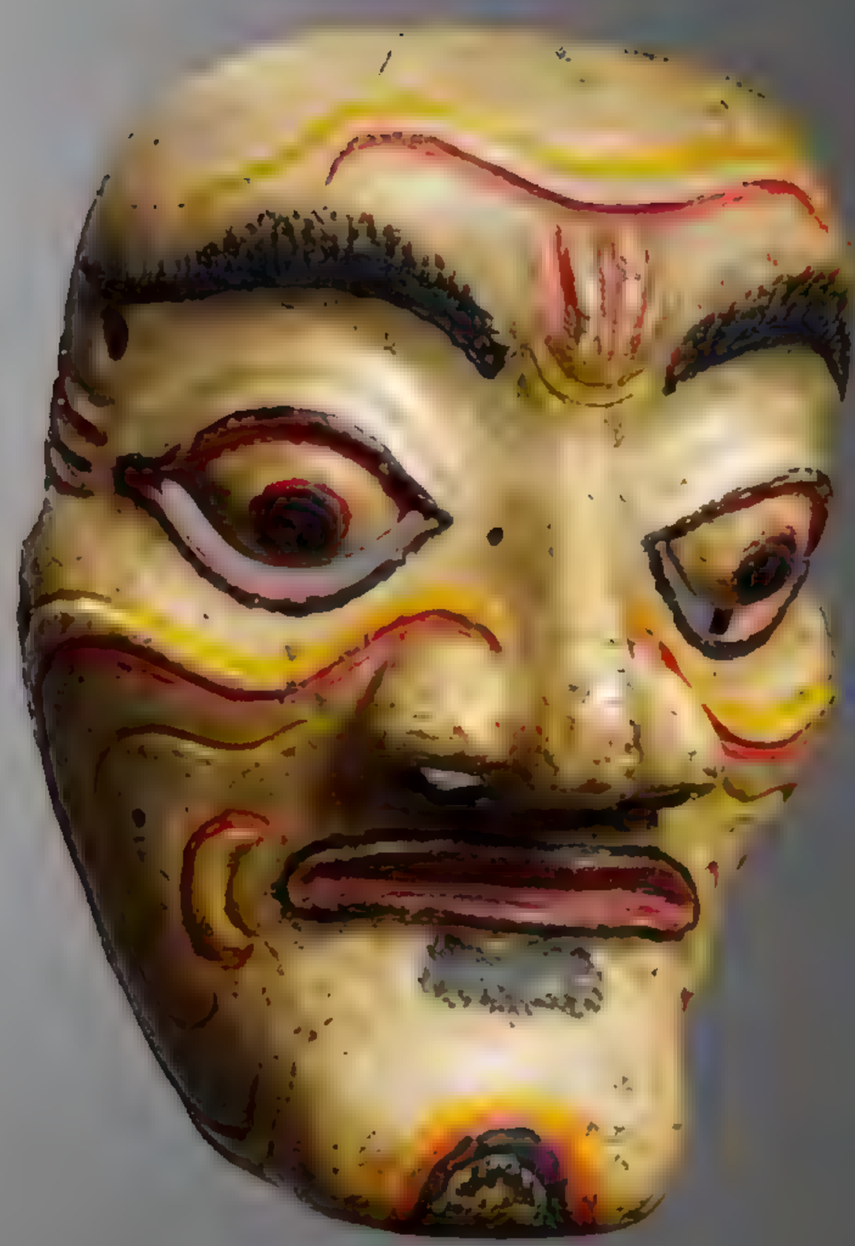

15

LOMBOK MASK

Mask
Lombok Island, Indonesia
Wood, pigments
Height: 16,5 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Paris,
Jean-Jacques Porchez, Paris
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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16

LUBA HEADREST

Headrest
Luba
D.R.of the Congo/ Southeastern Congo
19th century
Wood
Height: 13,4 cm
Provenance:
Marceau Riviere
Merton D, Simpson, New York, NY, #6028
Donald Morris gallery
Prominent Midwest collection
AHDRC #0031689
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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17

NEPAL MASK

Mask
West Nepal
Wood, soot patina, vegetal resin and hair
Height: 27 cm
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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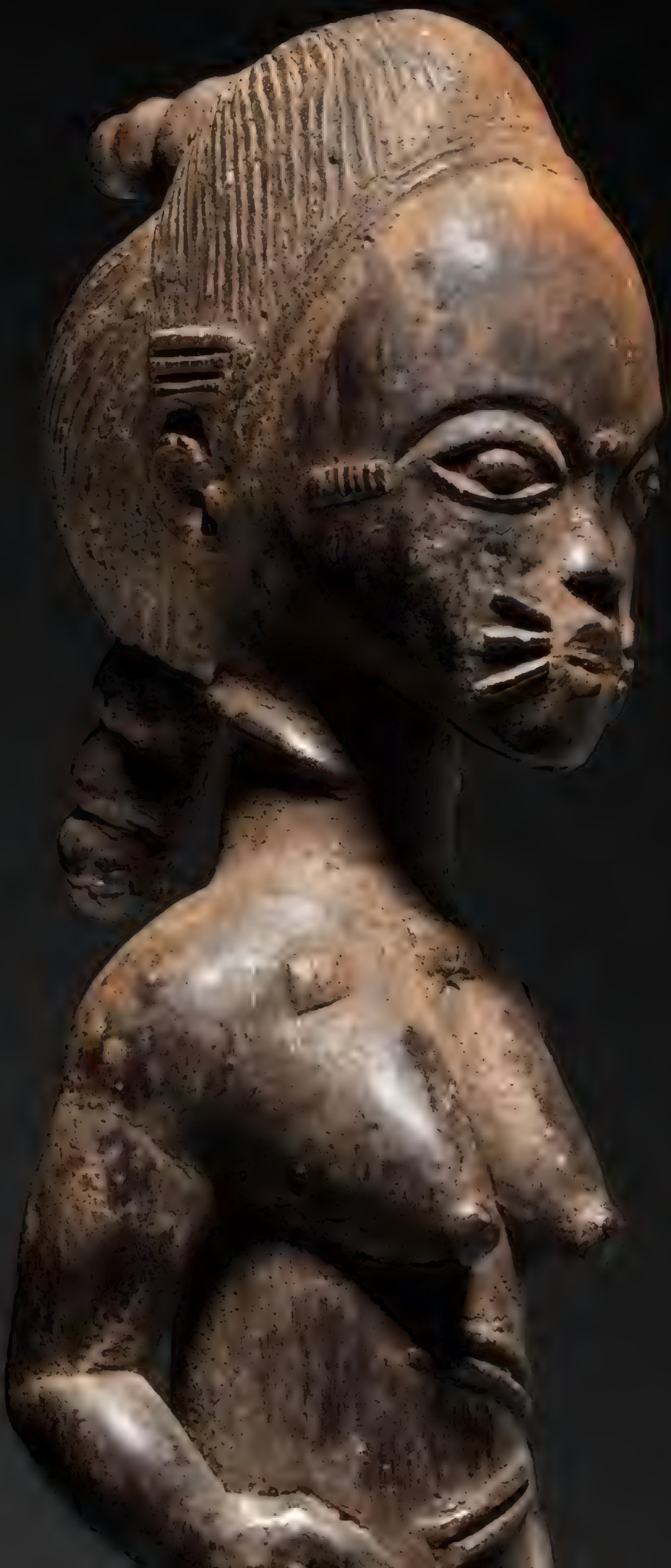

18

BAULE SCULPTURE

Asie usu or *Blolo bla* sculpture
Baule
Ivory Coast
Early 20th century
Wood
Height: 34,5 cm
Provenence:
Old Private collection, Spain
Publications:
Expo. Cat.: Imaginaire Tribal 2017.
Galeria David Serra
Fine Tribal Art, Barcelona
Parcours des Mondes, Paris. 2017
Price: 5.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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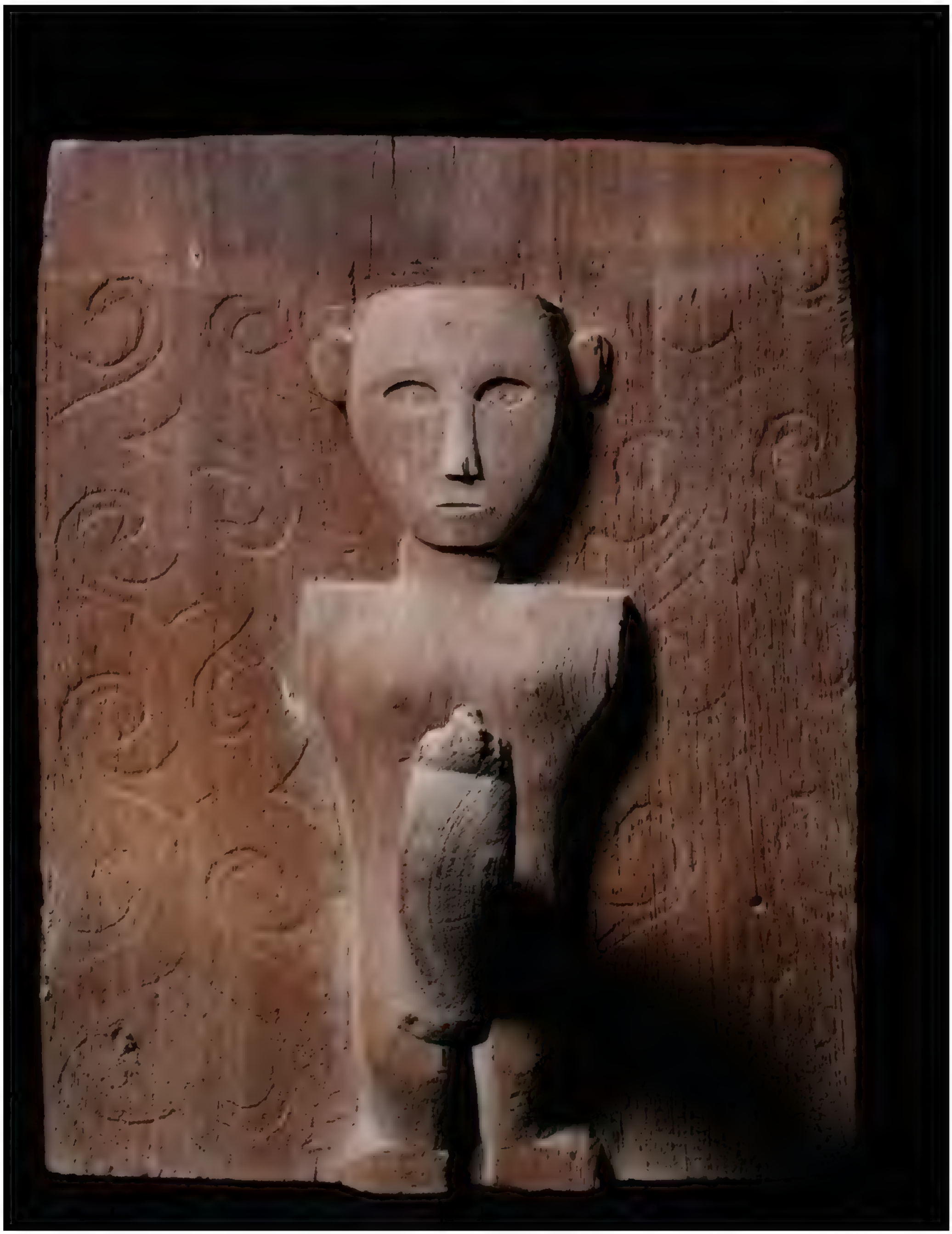

19

TORAJA DOOR

Door
Toraja
Sulawesi, Indonesia
19th century
52 cm x 43 cm
Price on request

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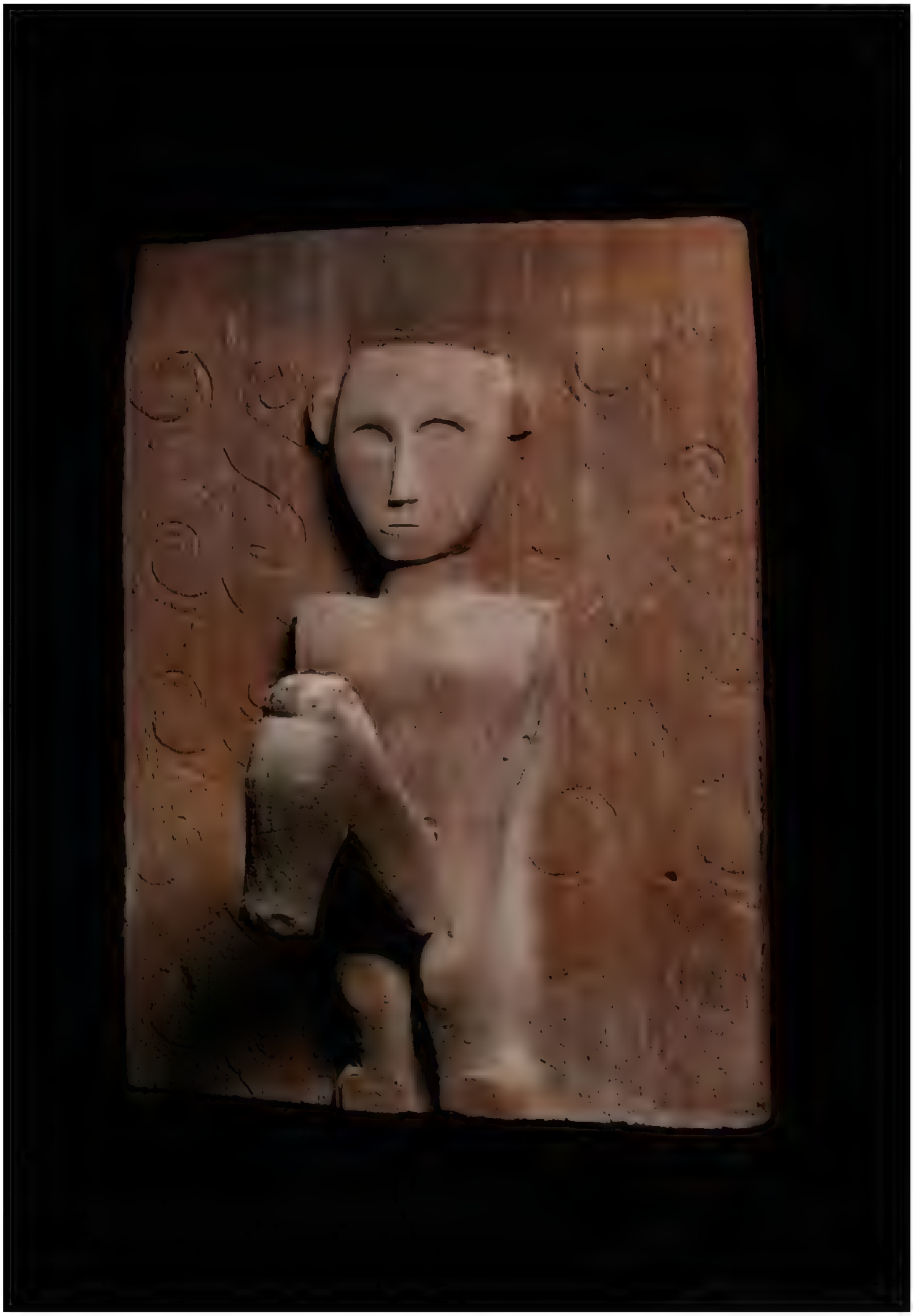

20

KASHEKESHEKE

Kashekesheke
Luba Katatora
D.R. of the Congo
19th century
Height: 15 cm
Publication:
Memory: Luba Art and the Making of History. P. 183
Mary Nooter Roberts and Allen F. Roberts
Price:

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21

MARUPAI

Marupai charm (hunting amulet)
Papuan Gulf, Papua New Guinea
Early 20th century
Carved coconut, pigments and fiber
Length: 11,3 cm
Provenance:
John & Marcia Friede, the Jolika collection, USA

TAS Exclusive Price: 4.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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This is an exceptionally fine example of Papuan Gulf *marupai* charm with refined iconography and fine-aged patina.

Marupai were primarily hunting amulets or personal spiritual charms. They served a number of functions (protection, sorcery, divination, warfare, ...).

The figural motifs (some of which can be seen upside down) are said to be associated with mythical heroes and spirits.

This *Marupai* charm will be part of our selection of ancient arts of Oceania on the occasion of PAD Paris, 6-10 April in the Tuileries Gardens.

22

SOGONI KOUN HEADDRESS

Headdress
Bamana
Mali
Early 20th century
Wood, brass tacks
Height: 49,5 cm
Provenance:
James Louis Winokur, USA
Price:

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Laurent Granier
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W.: www.granierancient.com

Sogoni koun headdresses, although inspired by the Bamana mythical ancestor *Ci Wara*, represent the convergence of the *ci wara* headdress genre with important elements of another distinct regional performance tradition.

Pascal James Imperato notes that "*sogoni koun* originated among the Wassalunke peoples in the Wassalou, a region about the Sankarani River where the borders of modern Guinea and Mali meet. Its appeal led to its adoption by a number western Bamana and Malinke villages, and the genre eventually spread widely" ("Sogoni Koun." African Arts 14, no. 2, pp. 38-47, 72, 88)

Our example is part of a known corpus (see the comparative images on our website) which can be divided into two groups: Headdresses with two pairs of horns (the pair at the back are ears) and, much more rare, with three pairs of horns, such as our.

From a sculptural point of view, the present *Sogoni koun* is truly remarkable. The first expression that comes to mind is "abstract": Horns and ears are born low on the side of the face and neck and join in an arrangement of sprouts, like a dense forest. These vertical elements, their spacing, it all bends proportionally at the summit.

This dynamism creates a tension on the middle section, constituted by the face and neck of the animal. Both the tension and the projection echoes the qualities attributed to the antelope.

The animal is observed in nature to excel in actions that are also critical to the success of the farming effort and, therefore, Bamana life.

23

NEPAL MASK

Mask
West Nepal
Polychrome wood, soot patina,
iron nails and fur
Height: 28 cm
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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24

TORQUE ALUR

Torque
D.R. Congo / Uganda
Iron
Height: 26 cm
Provenance:
Colonial collection, Belgium
Private collection, Belgium
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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W.: www.olivierlarroque.com

25

DAYAK BOWL

A rare and early bowl
Dayak
Borneo
19th century
37 cm x 23 cm
Price:

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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26

MASSIM STAFF

Staff
Massim
Trobriand Islands, Papua New Guinea
Early 20th century
Ebony wood
86,4 cm (h) x 5,08 cm (w) x 5,08 cm (d)
Price: 2.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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27

BAMBARA MASK

Mask
Bambara
Mali
Wood, cowries, seeds, mirrors and plant-based glue
Height: 55 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Paris
Price: 7.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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28

ESKIMO BEAR FIGURE

Bear amulet / Zoomorphic toggle
Archaic Eskimo cultures
Alaska
18th century or earlier
Walrus tooth
Length: 3,1 cm
Provenance:
Walter C. Waters, the Bear Totem Store, Wrangell, Alaska, before 1950
Private collection, France
Price: 4.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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W.: www.galerieflak.com

According to William Fitzhugh, from the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution and Bryan Just from the Princeton University Art Museum, animal figurines from Alaska were sometimes used in fertility ceremonies, or for calling upon the "masters" of game animals. Other ethnographic parallels recorded in the early 20th century demonstrate that figurines could be used as personal "assistants" and "spiritual helpers" to capture prey or as "guardians" to safeguard humankind from those physical and spiritual dangers encountered in the landscape.

The literature also describes other functions: protecting against disease, serving as birthing amulets, and acting as general household guardians and deities.

On St. Lawrence Island (Sivuqaq), guardian spirits communicated with their human companions in dreams and advised them of specific ceremonial activities to avoid sickness or to bring the family success in hunting. In such cases, spiritual assistants seemingly provided their human masters with a means to actively intervene in the cosmos. Among the Chukchi of Siberia, guardian spirits were also believed to be embodied in specific kinds of human and animal figurines.

In terms of function, this highly expressive bear head was presumably used as a toggle, and was part of an Arctic hunter's equipment.

This Eskimo figure will be part of our selection of ancient arts of North America on the occasion of PAD Paris, 6-10 April in the Tuileries Gardens.

29

CHIEFLY ROOF SPIRE

Roof Spire
Kanak
New Caledonia, Melanesia
19th century or earlier
Wood (houp) with a weathered and ravined patination due to lengthy exposure.
Height: 217 cm
Provenance:
Jacques Cheval collection
Price on Request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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A superb chiefly roof spire carved in the classical manner with a large strongly stylized human face centered over an elongated oval "body" on a long thick post. The effigy of the chief wears an important multi-segment pectoral ornament carved in high relief. There is a natural aperture in the torso.

30

ESKIMO PLUG

Wound Plug
Eskimo
Alaska
Punuk Period
800-1400 AD
8,9 cm (h) x 4,5 cm (w) x 2,9 cm (d)
Price: 2.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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UP TO

€ 2000

31

GUYANA DISH

Food dish
Guyana/Surinam
Wood
Height: 42 cm
Price:

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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W.: www.renaudvanuxem.com

32

TSHOKWE/LWENA SCULPTURE

Sculpture
Tshokwe/Lwena
Angola / D.R. of Congo
Early 20th century
Wood
Height: 15,5 cm
Provenance:
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit.
No. 1986.78
Price: 1.200 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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33

SEPIK SCEPTRE

An interesting, figurative sceptre with a lovely oxidised and used patination
Middle Sepik, P.N.G.
Inlaid metal eyes. Damage to one ear
Height: 44 cm
Provenance:
Leonhard Adam collection
Price: 550 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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34

BAULE FIGURE

Figure
Baule
Ivory Coast
Circa 1900
Height: 12 cm
Provenance:
European collection
Price: 850 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Adam Prout
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35

LEMBATA IKAT

Cloth
Ile Ape, Lembata island, Lesser Sunda Archipelago, Indonesia
Hand spun cotton, indigo and rusty brown dye. Bridewealth textile
145 cm x 68 cm
Price: 1.200 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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36

ZULU/ MPONDO STICK

Status stick
Zulu/Mpondo
Eastern cape or Natal province, South Africa
19th to early 20th century
Wood
Height: 116 cm
Provenance:
British private collection
Price: 1.800 euros

Very fine Zulu or Mpondo status stick with male and female symbols atop and two coiling snakes. The wood is reddish brown to black with a beautiful silky patina throughout.

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Laurent Granier
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37

SKOOKUM DOLL

Doll
Skookum
USA
1920
Height: 40 cm
Price: 600 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Renaud Vanuxem
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E.: rvanuxem@yahoo.fr
W.: www.renaudvanuxem.com

38

DAN MASK

Miniature mask
Dan
Ivory Coast
First half of 20th century
Wood
Height: 11 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, U.K.
Price: 1.200 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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W.: www.davidserra.es

TRIBAL ART
SOCIETY